



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 15, 2007

Dear Colleague:

Since January 2002, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has worked to implement the highly qualified teacher provisions of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. Each state was required to assure that all school districts met the highly qualified teacher requirement no later than June 30, 2006. Margaret Spellings, the Secretary of Education, provided states that were unable to meet this requirement with an opportunity to submit a revised state plan describing steps to be taken to assure compliance. The approval of this plan grants the state an extension to come into compliance by June 30, 2007. It is important to emphasize this extended period is for the state, as an aggregate, to reach 100% compliance and it has not been given to individual districts or public school academies.

Michigan's revised state plan has been approved and the MDE has developed the Michigan Technical Assistance Project (MiTAP) to implement the various strategies outlined in the state plan. One of the strategies is to conduct on-site monitoring visits to local districts. MiTAP monitors will be scheduling monitoring visits during the summer to assist selected districts with verifying their highly qualified teacher data and identifying options that districts and teachers can use to meet the requirement.

The monitoring protocol that will be used to conduct the on-site visits can be accessed at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MiTAP_Protocol_192460_7.doc

If your district is selected for a monitoring visit, please review the protocol, collect the necessary documentation, and complete the protocol prior to the on-site visit. The monitors will be reviewing Registry of Educational Personnel data, class assignment rosters, and the highly qualified teacher reports for compliance with NCLB. The monitors will prepare and submit a written report of findings to MDE staff for follow-up.

Enclosed is a copy of the "Michigan Local Education Agency Highly Qualified Teacher Report and Assurances." All districts, whether selected for a MiTAP visit or not, must complete this report and return to the MDE by June 30, 2007. If you have any questions regarding the monitoring visits, please contact Dr. Frank Ciloski at 517/373-6791 or email ciloski@michigan.gov or Ms. Krista Ried, at 517-373-0699 or email riedk@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your assistance in meeting this very important requirement.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

Enclosure
dsr

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